




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queens Wharf

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.43 am): In May 1825 Lieutenant Henry Miller and a detachment of the 40th Regiment of Foot, together with their convict charges, constructed a landing area for stores and supplies on the northern bank of the Brisbane River. This area later became known as Queens Wharf. Queens Wharf was the entrance to the new colony of Moreton Bay, and Queens Wharf Road was the access point for all supplies that came into the colony into Queen Street, William Street and George Street.

Mr Newman interjected.

Mr SEENEY: All of the supplies, Mr Premier. Today CBD maps still show Queens Wharf Road running between William Street and the river. To reflect this rich history, the Queensland government has decided to name the government precinct redevelopment Queens Wharf. The name was selected following community feedback which highlighted the importance of the heritage area to the public. The name will better reflect the project's contribution to Brisbane's emergence as a new world city, and the name will give the area a clear identity that in years to come we hope will be internationally recognised.

Queens Wharf will reconnect Brisbane's city centre to the river and its historic links at the William Street end of the city. The extensive public consultation undertaken earlier this year has resulted in a number of changes, not least a new precinct vision and objectives which will be released on the project website shortly. There has also been a lot of feedback, with almost 2,200 comments received during the consultation process. Much of the focus has been on the new development, delivering better public realm and heritage outcomes for the community.

Labor paid very little attention to the construction industry, but it is being reinvigorated as one of the four pillars of the economy by the Newman government. This project will give the sector a significant boost. It is one of the most gratifying things for me each morning as I walk to work from the Parliamentary Annexe to the Executive Building to see the increasing number of people and construction workers employed on the William Street site—people who would never have got the opportunity of a job under the Labor government.

The announcement of the government's intention to offer a casino licence for the Queens Wharf development plus up to two additional licences for similar integrated resort developments has sparked national and international interest. Government officers have engaged with a broad range of international developers to canvass international interest. I want to assure Queenslanders today that there are more than two interested parties. Reading some of the local media, you could be forgiven

for thinking that this was a two-horse race. There is a larger number of entities interested in the Queens Wharf development. There is a strong international interest and national developers have also expressed interest. We are engaging with that range of national and international interest to ensure that the state gets the best possible outcome from the development. We are delivering an open, fair and equitable process with all potential bidders having the same opportunity to win the tender.

The government's efforts to get this process underway are well on track, with former Queensland Auditor-General Len Scanlan appointed as probity adviser and the expressions of interest process to be formalised before Christmas. The EOI period is expected to be concluded by the end of March 2014 and, following assessment and short-listing, the request for detailed proposals is expected to be issued by the end of June 2014. Hopefully, a decision on the successful proponent is expected to be finalised by 2015. Queenslanders can be assured that our government is working to ensure that Queens Wharf Brisbane will one day become nationally and internationally recognised as one of our city's great icons.